

January 12, 2004

Obit: Lester E. Graf

- The funeral for Lester E. Graf, a former Aberdeen resident and long-time Houghton area farmer, will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at the Trinity Lutheran Church of Houghton. The Reverend Al Magnuson will officiate. Burial will be in the Houghton Cemetery.
- Visitation will be Monday, from 4-7 p.m. at the Price Funeral Chapel of Hecla, and one hour preceding the funeral at the church on Tuesday.
- Lester died Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the Community Memorial Hospital in Redfield at the age of 90.
- Lester Ellis Graf was born January 19, 1913 to William Lewis and Lila Elizabeth (Snyder) Graf in Hutchinson, Kansas. As a



youngster, he moved with his family to the Houghton area and was raised on the Graf farm, where he later farmed with his father.

- He married Esther Brockhoff on September 6, 1933 at Aberdeen, SD. They continued to live on the farm, and raised two sons. While farming, he also worked for A.S.C.S. measuring land and grain bins. Esther died March 28, 1969.
- Lester married Esther Huettl on August 25, 1969 and they lived in Aberdeen. Esther died October 26, 1995 and Lester remained in Aberdeen until December 18, 1997 when he returned to the farm and lived with his son and daughter-in-law.
- While living in Aberdeen, Lester worked for 14 years at Brown and Marshall County Soil Conservation and planted many of our trees in Brown County.
- He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Houghton, and a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Hecla.
- On January 2, 2001, Lester moved to the Eastern Star Home in Redfield, where he remained until the time of his death.
- Lester is survived by one son: Robert (Janet) Graf of Houghton; three grandchildren: Pernell Graf of Groton and his four children; Lori (John) Seeyle of Britton, and their three children; and Lee Graf of Aberdeen. He is also survived by his step-children: Lorraine (Roy) Gruenstein of Aberdeen; Marge (Edward) Hunecker of Little Rock, Arkansas; Robert (Pat) Huettl of South Bend, Indiana; a step-daughter-in-law, Caroline Huettl of Coon Rapids, Minnesota; and a step-son-in-law, Lyle Walker of Bath; 30 step-grandchildren, several step-great-grandchildren and step-great-great-grandchildren; and a cousin, Robert Gutekunst of Houghton.
- He was preceded in death by his parents, both wives, a son, Delmer, an infant brother, a step-son, Clarence Huettl and step-daughter, Rose Mary Walker.

- Casketbearers will be Pete Caspers, William C. Dennert, David Dinger, Mahlon Spurr, Eugene Dinger and Mike Dinger. Honorary casketbearers will be all of Lester's many friends.
- Music for the funeral will be provided by Pat Dennert, organist and Bill Duncan, soloist.